Date of Notification 08.07.1999 and 28.07.2000

Tenure: Three years.

Work Done

The Commission has been performing the task of examining requests for inclusion of any class of citizen as a backward class in the lists and hear complaints of over-inclusion or under- inclusion of any backward class in such lists and tender such advice to the Central Government as it deems appropriate.

(iv) National Commission for Minorities

Present Composition

Name & Designation			Date of Joining
1. Justice Mohammed Shamim	—	Chairman	24.01.2000
2. Shri Tarlochan Singh	—	Vice-Chairman	24.01.2000
3. Lt. Gen. (Retd.) A.M. Sethna	—	Member	24.01.2000
4. Shri T.K. Lochen Tulku	—	Member	24.01.2000
5. Shri John Joseph	—	Member	24.01.2000
6. Shri Shamim Kazim	—	Member	31.01.2000
7. Mr. Vijay Kumar Dar	—	Member	24.01.2000

Date of Notification 21.1.2000

Tenure: Three years.

Work Done

The Commission celebrated ""Minorities Rights Day" on 18.12.1998. Two monographs on (i) Right of Minorities to Establish and Administer Educational Institutions and (ii) Minorities Right to Freedom of Religion were produced. The Commission also tendered advices on matters referred to it by the Government.

Problems faced by disabled

1477. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are over 60 million disabled people in the country;

(b) whether it is now recognized that the problems faced by these people are not only medical and social but also Human Rights issue as Government policies to help them are not being implemented; and

(c) if so, Government's views on this?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) As per the sample survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in 1991, approximately 5% of the population is estimated to be affected by some kind of disability.

(b) and (c) A number of schemes and programmes are being implemented for education, training and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities through the National Institutes, Composite Rehabilitation Centres, Regional Rehabilitation Centres and District Disability Rehabilitation Centres. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are also assisted under the scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities (Umbrella Scheme) and Assistance to Disabled for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP). Soft loans are also provided by National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC) for self-employment ventures. In addition, various States are also providing facilities and concessions like pension, unemployment allowance, transport subsidies etc. To give effect to the proclamation on the full participation and equality of the people with disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region, the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 has been enacted.

Neglect of disabled

1478. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are 60 million disabled people in the country, out of which, Government grants and institutions cater to just 5 per cent leaving the rest to fend for themselves; and

(b) if so, Government's views on this?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) As per the sample survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 1991, approximately 5% of the population is estimated to be effected by some kind of disability. A number of schemes and programmes are being implemented for education, training and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities through the National